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Community *notes*

2017 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival



Tickets are now on sale for the 2017 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival for Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7 from 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Peruse the incredible array of activities, technologies, expertise,

artistry, skill and passions on display at the festival. Enjoy storytelling, live music, food, all sorts of demonstrations and crafts, not to mention the hand crafted items for sale and auction.

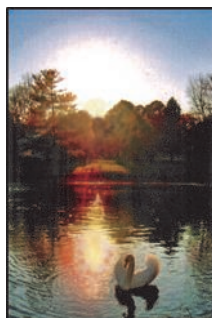
The festival takes place at the Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship MD. Tickets are \$5 for those 18 and over. For more information and to buy your tickets, visit the [event website](#). Due to hundreds of animal participants, attendees are asked to please leave their pets at home.

Beaverbrook Yard Sale

The Beaverbrook Community Association hosts its annual community-wide yard sale on Saturday May 6, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (rain date May 13).

With 270 households participating, the annual yard sale is great way to meet and greet neighbors and customers. Plan to arrive early to catch some great bargains.

Enter Beaverbrook either from Route 108 at the Beaverbrook/Centennial intersection, or from Hesperus Lane in Harper's Choice Village, turn on Castlemoor Drive into the neighborhood.



Greetings

Spring events kick into high gear over the next couple of weeks. We've included a few of those events in this newsletter. Hopefully, you'll find a thing or two that promises to be fun!

May Kay

Your Vote Counts!

It's village election season in Columbia. Many of our neighbors have placed themselves on the ballot. It's essential for those of us who live in Columbia to exercise our right to vote and help the candidates get elected. In so doing, we play an important part in the future of our villages and the Columbia Association. Use the links below to visit your village's website:

[Harper's Choice Community Association](#)
[Wilde Lake Community Association](#)
[Hickory Ridge Community Association](#)
[River Hill Community Association](#)
[Town Center Community Association](#)

**Town Center Community Association does not have contested elections to its Board of Directors this year. The Association will hold its annual Spring Yard Sale on April 29, 2017.*

Please take the time to vote. It is not only our right, it is our privilege to decide who will represent us and our community. Make your voice heard. Thanks!



CBC 2017 Essay Contest

Do you know a high school sophomore or junior? If so, here's an opportunity for them to share excellent writing skills by participating in the Congressional Black Caucus Essay Contest. This year's essay topic asks students to consider the importance of business ownership within the African-American community and to contemplate the importance of African-American owned businesses in relation to their own future business goals.

Participants must attend a school within a district represented by a member of CBC. All written essay submissions are due by Sunday, May 7, 2017. Winners will be selected on or before Monday, June 19, 2017. The first place winner will receive \$1,500; second place will receive \$1,000 and third place will receive \$750. Three finalists will receive round trip airfare and hotel accommodations for Washington, D.C. to attend a congratulatory luncheon and youth issue forum during the Annual Legislative Conference in September. Visit the CBC Essay Contest [website](#) for the full description of the contest and the rules.

Quick Tips for Avoiding Tax Collection Scams

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is now using private collection agencies to collect overdue federal tax debts. Unfortunately, con artists are likely to use this change to trick individuals into paying money they do not owe. Remember these tips to avoid being scammed:

- Back taxes can only be collected by specific agencies selected by the IRS who are required to abide by the Fair Credit Debt Collection Practices Act.
- Before an approved agency calls you, the IRS will send you a letter that gives you the name of the agency and information on what you owe. The agency will then send a second, separate confirmation letter. If you have not received written notice, don't trust callers demanding money for back taxes.
- Approved agencies may identify themselves as IRS contractors collecting taxes, but imposters will too. Submit payments by the IRS website or send a check directly to the IRS (payable to "U.S. Treasury.") Hang up if the caller: asks you to send money to anyone other than the IRS or US Treasury; requests your debit or credit card number; or tells you to pay using prepaid debit cards, iTunes or gift cards.
- Approved private collection agencies are not authorized to take criminal action against taxpayers and cannot threaten taxpayers with arrest or deportation.

If you aren't sure if you owe back taxes, check your [IRS account balance](#). If you are unable to pay the full amount, set up a payment plan with the IRS.

For more information, [read OCP's new factsheet](#). To file a complaint or request this factsheet in an alternative format, call 410-313-6420 or click [here](#) to email a request.

Spring Cleaning Recycling Suggestions

As you go through your house for spring cleaning, you may find some items of which you do not know how to dispose. If you find something and are asking yourself, "What should I do with...?" then look no further, this list may have your answer.

American Flags:

Alpha Ridge Landfill has a collection box for worn U.S. Flags that need to be retired. Recycled flags will be disposed of in a dignified fashion as required by the U.S. Flag Code.

Binders:

[Office Depot](#) accepts used binders for a \$2 off coupon! Gather your battered binders for a nice discount on future supplies! Batteries

Christmas Lights:

Although you've probably already packed these away, twinkle lights can be recycled through [Holiday LEDS recycling program](#). This program also offers a 15% off coupon.

Corks:

Cork is a fantastic renewable, recyclable material that often finds its way into our landfills. Roots Natural Market in Olney and MOM's Organic Market are two drop off locations in the area that will gladly accept wine corks. For more information on mailing cork, [visit Recork's website](#).

Grills:

Grills can be recycled with scrap metal. Call 410-313-6444 to schedule a curbside collection or recycle your grill at Alpha Ridge Convenience Center. You can also recycle your propane tank at Alpha Ridge in the compressed gas tank area.

Ink Cartridges:

Donate your used ink cartridges to Howard County Animal Shelter (they'll recycle and collect some money) or you can drop off cartridges at Staples, Office Depot, Best Buy, Walgreens, and the Post Office.

Various Craft Supplies:

Crayons can be melted into new crayons at home, or they can be mailed into [The Crazy Crayon](#) Recycling Program. [Crayola ColorCycle](#) will accept used markers for recycling.

Didn't find what you were looking for on this list? Fear not! For more ideas on how to dispose of other unique home items, visit the [Bureau of Environmental Works website](#). Happy cleaning!

Party With The Stars!

Howard Astronomical League (HAL) invites the community to a Star Party on Saturday, May 6 at the HAL Observatory at Alpha Ridge Park in Marriottsville from 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Prior to the party, at 7:30 p.m., HAL hosts a ribbon cutting ceremony for a model Solar System Walk at the park. Enjoy the night sky through telescopes set up by HAL members as well as live images of the waxing gibbous Moon on a big screen as seen through the observatory's Watson Telescope. See the [event website](#) for more information and directions.



Sundance Shorts on Tour

The diverse 2017 Short Film Tour features a wide variety of storytelling, fiction, documentary and animation from around the globe. The program offers new audiences a taste of what the Sundance Festival offers, from laugh-out-loud comedy to contemplative reflections of the world we share. This event takes place on June 25 at 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. at Montebardo Hall in the Horowitz Center at Howard Community College. Tickets are \$15. Plan ahead and [get your tickets today!](#)

St. Louis Church Concert Series

The St. Louis Church Concert Series presents a program of chamber, choral, and vocal music on Sunday, May 7, 4:00 p.m. at St. Louis Church, 12500 Clarksville Pike, Clarksville. Come spend a memorable afternoon and enjoy diverse musical offerings as we posthumously honor the life and legacy of Fred Beaudoin, who served as St. Louis Church choir director from 1985 to 2007. The program is free of charge. Additional information can be found at stlconcertseries.org, or by contacting events@stlconcertseries.org or 443-535-1691.

Coming Soon: Ho Co Farmers' Markets

You know spring is finally here when the Howard County Farmers' Markets open for the season. Local and regional farmers will provide the freshest of fruits, vegetables, dairy, eggs, meats and baked goods for your health and enjoyment. Nothing tastes better than the freshest food at its peak. Stop at one of the five locations beginning Wednesday, May 10 and enjoy the bounty of the season! For more information, visit the HCEDEA Farmers' Markets website. Travelling around Maryland? You can find out of county Farmers' Markets simply by visiting MD Department of Agriculture's webpage for more locations.

Have You Signed Up For Camp Yet?



It is time to start thinking about which camps to send the kids after school ends in June! There's a camp for everyone; whether it be packed with playing outdoors or inside the theater rehearsing a play, your kids are going to love

going to camp this summer. Check out the possibilities using the links below, and sign up soon!

[Howard County Recreation and Parks Summer Camp Guide](#)

[Columbia Association Camps](#)

[HCRP 2017 Spring and Summer Activities Guide](#) (for all ages)

[The Walters Art Museum Summer Camps](#)

[Walters Art Museum Teen Workshops](#)

[Howard County Arts Council Performing and Visual Arts Camps](#)

[Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts Summer Camps](#)

[Maryland Science Center Summer Camps](#)

Upcoming Events

Blackbird Poetry Festival

Thursday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.

Smith Theater, HCC

The Blackbird Poetry Festival is this Thursday! Tyehimba Jess will read from and discuss his most recent work, *Olio*, and other award winning works. Tickets are \$15 each (students and seniors are \$10) [available on-line](#). For more information, call HoCoPoLitSo at (443) 518-4568, email hocopolitso@yahoo.com, or visit [Howard Community College's website](#).

Youth Leadership Workshop

Saturday, April 29, 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

North Laurel Community Center

9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd, Laurel

Calling all parents, guardians, sons and daughters (ages 8 – 13) to participate in a movement designed to empower young people to be the change they wish to see in the world! There will be food, entertainment, motivational programming and much more. To register, visit the Multiservice Center's [website](#).

The Lark Quartet Performance

Saturday, April 29, 8:00 p.m.

Smith Theater, HCC

This quartet is notorious for its energy, passionate commitment and artistry since its inception in 1985. There will be a pre-concert reception in the lobby at 7:00 p.m. featuring a performance by some of the Peabody Pre-College Violin Program. For more information, visit the [Candlelight Concert's website](#).

****NOTE: [CA's Oceania CultureFest has unavoidably been postponed until the fall.](#)**

Help Needed for Bike and Pedestrian Count

Columbia Association and Howard County's Office of Transportation need volunteers to help count the number of bicyclists and pedestrians on pathways in Columbia and on-street locations along Route 1 between Saturday, May 27 and Saturday, June 3. [Please sign up to volunteer](#) by Friday, May 12.



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